



Admiring their work

Pauline Merling and Marianne Weiler step back to look at their progress in planting Conestoga's 25th anniversary logo at Rockway Gardens in Kitchener on June 20.

(Photo by Heather Ibbotson)

New trees threatened by limits on watering

By Heather Ibbotson

Some of the nearly 150 newly-planted trees on Conestoga's Doon campus may wither and die, if regional watering restrictions team up with a drought this summer.

Because the Doon campus falls under the regulations of the City of Kitchener and has an odd-numbered street address, outdoor water use is restricted to odd-numbered days of the month between 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., and 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

If there is any prolonged drought this summer, "the watering restrictions will kill the (newly-planted) trees," said Peter Higgins, head groundskeeper at the Doon campus.

In the case of serious water shortages, regional bylaws take precedence over city bylaws. There are two levels of regional restrictions. Stage one regulations concerning

the watering of lawns, trees, flowers and gardens become even more rigid, although new swimming pools can be filled and existing ones topped up. Stage two restrictions prohibit all types of watering and outdoor recreational water use, from filling swimming pools to washing vehicles and driveways.

Higgins said he is concerned about trees which were planted on the Doon campus during late May and early June, many of which arrived with bare roots. "It takes a couple of weeks to grow new root-hairs to take up water," he said.

Higgins, who does not work at night and so he cannot take advantage of evening watering hours, estimates the existing city bylaw will allot him either six or nine hours of watering per week. As there are about 150 newly-planted trees on the campus, and watering takes

See Purchase, Page 3

Second intake added to government-run technology program

By Ken Cenerelli

A second intake has been added to the condensed numerical control technician program slated to start June 29 at Conestoga College's Doon campus, said Martin Hare, the course's co-ordinator and only full-time instructor.

The course is designed as a supplement to the background the students already have in technological

and quality assurance among others.

Although it helps to bring some background into the program, it's not a limiting factor, said Judy Abell, federal programs co-ordinator for the Kitchener-Waterloo Guelph Training Advisory Council (K-WGTAC).

K-WGTAC is funded by Canada Employment and Immigration through the unemployment insur-

tees to K-WGTAC. Through its budget, K-WGTAC can then buy seats for students in the programs offered at the college and other learning institutions.

The 52-week course can accommodate 24 students, each of whom costs the government \$11,240, including any basic materials needed for the 1,462-hour program.

A student enrolled in the program must be receiving unemployment

benefits and must also go through an interview process.

Abell said K-WGTAC tested about 75 applicants for the second intake and then combined with college representatives to interview about 50 of those.

The reason for a second intake, Abell said, was that K-GTAC "really liked the first program, it's doing really well." The training council started the first program

Abell said the program has caught the eye of industry as well. She said training from the program can lead to a number of job opportunities for someone who has completed it.

Most people learned about the program through information sessions at Canada Employment and Immigration. These sessions run every week in Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge and are geared towards people whose unemploy-

Human resources director surprised by 'generous' contract

By Troy Bridgeman

The director of human resources for Conestoga College said he was surprised by the "generous" contract proposal offered June 5 to Ontario community college faculty.

"Presidents and boards were operating under the assumption it wouldn't be that generous," said Colin MacGregor. "The final result was a surprise to everybody."

The proposal, offered by the council of regents, will be put to a ratification vote in September.

If ratified, full-time faculty represented by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) will receive a \$1,700 signing bonus, a 4.3 per cent increase Sept. 1, 1992, a two per cent increase Sept. 1, 1993 and improved benefits.

MacGregor said he wonders where the money will come from as there has been no hint of an increase in funding to the colleges from the province.

"The key is the ability to pay," said MacGregor.

He said college management has agreed to accept a wage freeze on salaries of more than \$50,000 to curb operating costs.

MacGregor said he is concerned about the "long-term implications" of the proposal and suggested there will have to be some restructuring to absorb the increase in operating costs.

He said it is difficult to raise revenue and compete for students, with industries in the private sector offering similar training.

Costs for programs may increase and the types or numbers of courses offered may be affected.

He said it is possible the college may adopt a "laddering" concept which would involve spreading training in programs over a number of colleges.

Wage increases, which will see top-level teachers earning \$66,259 in 1993, may demand a "much higher-calibre faculty."

He said teachers may be expected to hold masters degrees and the role of faculty will have to be re-examined to distinguish between teaching and non-teaching activi-

ties.

MacGregor said education, like industry, must be restructured to deal with the present economic situation.

He said taxpayers don't want to pay any more taxes.

With a national unemployment rate of 11 per cent, there is "not a lot of money out there."

John Berry, OPSEU Local 237 (faculty) president, said the contract bargaining committee is recommending members accept the contract offer.

The offer includes a cost of living allowance to be paid every six months if the consumer price index rises more than three per cent and improved dental benefits.

Benefits for 1992 will cover caps and crowns, and an additional \$2,000 will be allowed for orthodontic work in 1993.

Two steps will be added to the salary grid to meet union demands that top wages return to what union negotiators have called a traditional level between high school and university teachers.

See related story, Page 3



Colin MacGregor, director of human resources, takes a phone call.
(Photo by Troy Bridgeman)

SPOKE

Editor: Ken Cenerelli
Associate Editor: Heather Ibbotson
Production Manager: Garry Erb
Advertising Manager: Neil Wells
Copy Editor: Sandra Schuett
Circulation Manager: Cara-Mae Hackett
Faculty Supervisors: Jerry Frank, Andrew Jankowski

Spoke is published and produced by the journalism-print students of Conestoga College. Spoke is mainly funded from September to May by the DSA. The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of the college or the DSA. Advertisers in Spoke are not endorsed by the DSA unless their advertisements contain the DSA logo. Spoke shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space.

Spoke, Conestoga College, 299 Doon Valley Dr.
 Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4 Telephone: 748-5366, Room 4B15
 Telephone: 748-5366, Room 4B15

Circuses ignore animal rights



By Ken Cenerelli

Gone are circus trains and parades down the main street of a city where the circus would pitch its tents. And with them the fascination with "wolf boy" and the lady with the moustache. But most of all, what is missing is the love for animal acts.

Circuses were once made up of animal acts. People would come to see the ring master stick his head into the lion's mouth and watch the elephant step between people lying on the ground.

But the one thing people didn't see was the abuse the animals took behind the scenes, the torture and neglect they endured for not performing up to par.

When Kitchener passed a bylaw to restrict all large exotic canines and felines in the city, the law encompassed circuses. The Shrine Circus, which has been at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium for as long as I can remember, was affected because of their tiger acts.

Well the circus is back, but this time in Waterloo. Although Shrine officials insist the animals they use are not abused, a June 20 Kitchener-Waterloo Record article said a veterinarian inspecting the animals heard some tigers "howling" in covered cages. Those inspected by the veterinarians received a clean bill of health.

Being healthy is not the issue. Animals should not be allowed in circuses. They are kept in cages until show time and returned to them immediately after the show. They are rarely exercised or allowed to run free like they can in the wild.

Many circuses are scaling down their animal acts and are still drawing crowds. Cirque Du Soleil, from Quebec, is a unique one-ring circus that has clowns, acrobatics and other non-animal acts that play to packed houses around the world.

Their emphasis on theatrics and lack of animals still gives the crowd what they want — entertainment.

Many circuses today can't provide entertainment like other things can. The crowds are staying away because the older style circus has less to offer.

Plus, many people are now animal conscious and don't want to have anything to do with supporting a business that keeps animals locked up and used for entertainment.

The same thing could be said about zoos, but I believe they serve a useful purpose. Many zoos try to provide a natural environment for the animal and in many instances, have brought animals back from the brink of extinction.

They also house animals that are ruthlessly hunted in the wild for their coat or their tusks.

Now I am not calling for the demise of all circuses, but rather for them to rethink their policy on using animal acts. If many more cities like Kitchener and Toronto impose exotic animal bylaws, they will have nowhere to play.

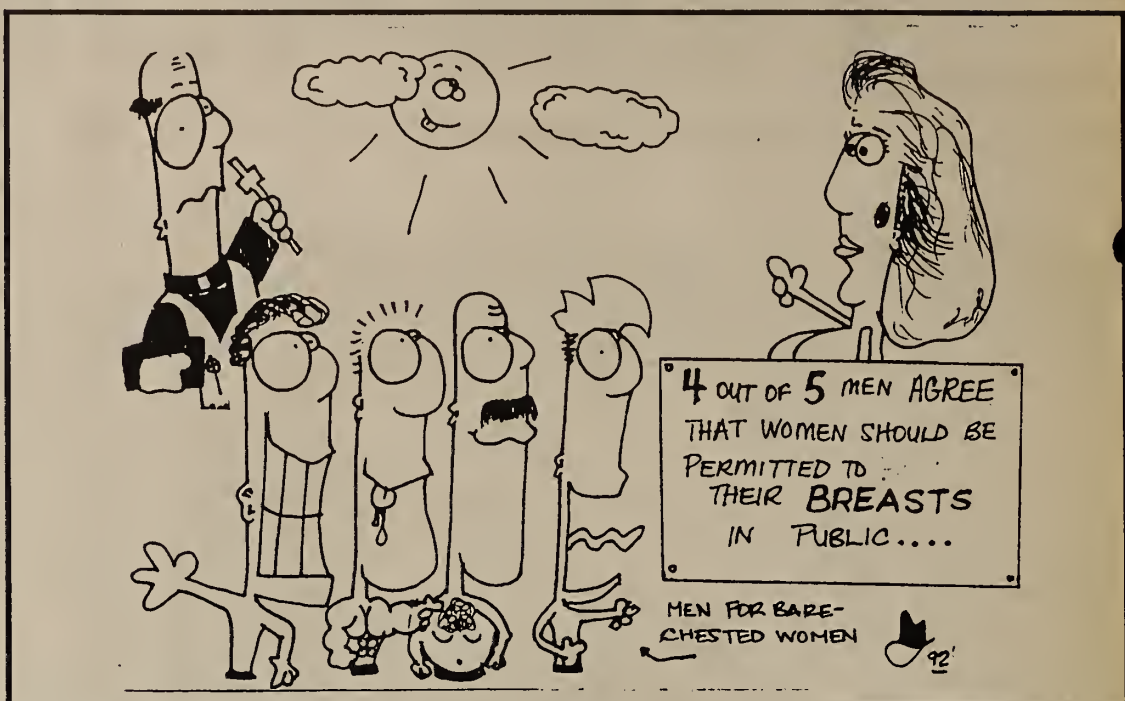
That would be a shame, because I always get a kick out of watching all those clowns pile out of a small car and wonder how they do it.

Letters to the editor

Spoke welcomes all letters to the editor. If you have a beef, or an opinion, please send it in. Spoke reserves the right to edit letters to fit space, and to remove any libellous statements. Your letter must be signed and include your program and year for verification. Address letters to the Spoke office, room 4B15, Doon campus.

Spoke, Conestoga College
 299 Doon Valley Dr.
 Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4

OPINION



U.S. pollutes Earth Summit

The United States damaged the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro by not co-operating with other participating nations, thereby jeopardizing goodwill and the future of any Earth preservation strategy.

Despite President George Bush's pledge that "the United States will carry forward the promise of Rio," the Americans failed to live up to their words. By refusing to sign the Biodiversity Treaty (intended to be the basis of future global protocol) the U.S. altered the tone of a summit that was supposed to be the beginning of a new world environmental order.

Instead of serving as an example of global togetherness on crucial issues such as pollution, poverty and global warming, the conference was a cracked mirror reflecting American self-interest.

Even with countries such as Japan offering to donate \$10 billion to \$20 billion, proposed environmental reform projects would carry a hefty price tag.

The U.S. refuses to donate money unless it is channeled through the Global Environmental Facility, a fund that is partly controlled by the Washington-based World Bank.

The U.S. is hesitant to give money to any organization over which it has no control and does not like the idea of sharing resource profits or technology with Third-world countries.

The U.S. should have followed Canada's lead. Our 93-member delegation, headed by the summit's

secretary general, Maurice Strong, fought hard to keep the summit's purpose alive throughout.

Strong worked hard behind the scenes to produce agreements to satisfy wary nations. Even before the summit began, Strong travelled around the world trying to sell the summit and drum up support for its purpose.

Strong set high goals for the conference, but its atmosphere was marred by the behavior of U.S. representatives, as well as several other nations and organizations who opposed some of the proposals. The Canadian delegation's position publically differed with the American position on biodiversity and Canada encouraged several other countries not to drop their support for the summit.

America's tough stand on the biodiversity issue was not the only conflict apparent at the Earth Summit. Several nations were concerned about who would pay for the summit's goals and some less-developed countries, like Malaysia, resented being told how to manage their territory.

The flippant attitude of Bush and the American delegation annoyed other nations, such as the Netherlands, which decided to create their own agreement for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

The conference that was supposed to end with a show of goodwill, concluded on a sour note.

— Sandra Schuett

Government should butt out of tobacco

Canada's federal and provincial governments must stop straddling the fence of ambivalence when it comes to deciding the future of this country's tobacco industry.

With one arm, federal, provincial and territorial governments readily embrace the more than \$7 billion in annual revenue which is generated by the sale of tobacco products.

Federal and provincial taxes currently account for more than 71 per cent of the price of a pack of cigarettes. As of May 15, 1992, \$4.40 from the sale of each \$5.65-package of 25 cigarettes in Ontario went into government coffers.

Meanwhile, the Ontario government is pumping an extra \$3.5 million into the province's 42 health units to fund anti-smoking campaigns.

Across Canada, elected officials have openly vowed to eliminate Canadians' freedom of choice and freedom of pleasure when it comes to producing a legal crop and partaking of a legal "vice".

Paul Wessinger, MPP and parliamentary assistant to Ontario Minister of Health Francis Lankin, said recently, "We want to see a smoke-free future for all Ontarians."

If federal and provincial governments sincerely believe tobacco is an evil incarnate, they should buy out all the tobacco farmers and declare tobacco an illegal substance.

By doing so, they would eliminate the livelihood of an estimated 60,000 Canadians who are directly or indirectly employed by the tobacco industry.

Apart from putting a huge number of growers, processors, manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers out of business.

This action would affect thousands of other people whose livelihoods are based on servicing and supplying the ordinary needs of these people and their communities.

On the surface, this would appear to suit the agenda of federal and provincial governments just fine, as they have become little more than puppets of narrow-minded, special-interest groups such as the anti-smoking lobbies.

But what holds the government back is the addictive relationship it has with the tobacco industry — an addiction not to nicotine but to cash.

The sale of tobacco and the immense tax revenues accrued from it have made tobacco one of the biggest cash cows governments have ever had. The desperate need to pacify tobacco temperance activists butts heads with the government's endless craving for the easiest and most powerful cash fix.

Governments must either make a decision to declare tobacco a contraband product and provide fair-value restitution to growers, as well as offer comparable employment for some 60,000 people, or they must loosen their stranglehold of taxation and stop labelling innocent people as near criminals because they grow a legal product.

Governments should realize when it comes to tobacco, they can't longer have their cake and eat it too.

— Heather Ibbotson



Martin Hare, co-ordinator of the numerical control program.

(Photo by Ken Cenerelli)

Economy prompts enrolment

Continued from Page 1

A guide to training programs is provided at the sessions and Abell said they advertised in the guide.

Abell said the training council has no target group for student applicants. "The thrust in the past was keeping the students in the well-skilled jobs they had. Now that the economy has changed, so has our focus, and we are doing more for the unemployed," she said.

Even with the limited restrictions, there are few women in the program. Currently, there is one woman in the first program, and Abell said they interviewed four women for the second intake, with two being offered placements. It was unsure as to whether they would accept.

Program courses will include instruction in computer-assisted design (CAD) drafting, hydraulics, pneumatics, robotics and strength of materials.

Hare said the college tried to make the program as diverse as possible.

All the courses will be taught at Doon "because it is the centre of technology" for the college, Hare said. Courses will be spread

throughout the campus, with electrical and electronics taught at the Electrical Skills Centre.

Hydraulics and pneumatics will be taught at the Festo-Conestoga College Control Technology Training Centre. Festo-Didactic, a German company which Hare said is a leader in hydraulics and pneumatics, leases building space at 60 New Dundee Rd. in Kitchener, across the street from the Doon campus. The college formed a partnership with the company enabling technology students to be trained there.

Hare said he is unsure if there will be a third intake. He said a lot depends on future funding.

Abell has about \$1 million to spend on new programs from the unemployment insurance fund. The fund for upgrading employed people fell from \$750,000 last year to about \$200,000 this year. "People still employed still need training," she said.

Hare said the college has run programs like this before but everyone dropped out because jobs were available. "When the economy was booming, nobody wanted to take this fast-track approach. With the current recession, they are all coming back."

Purchase of portable water tank could save trees from drought

Continued from Page 1

about 20 minutes per tree, Higgins estimated he would need about 50 hours per week of watering time to do a proper job.

"They (the city) want people to plant trees to improve the environment but then (the city) turns around and won't let you keep them alive," Higgins said.

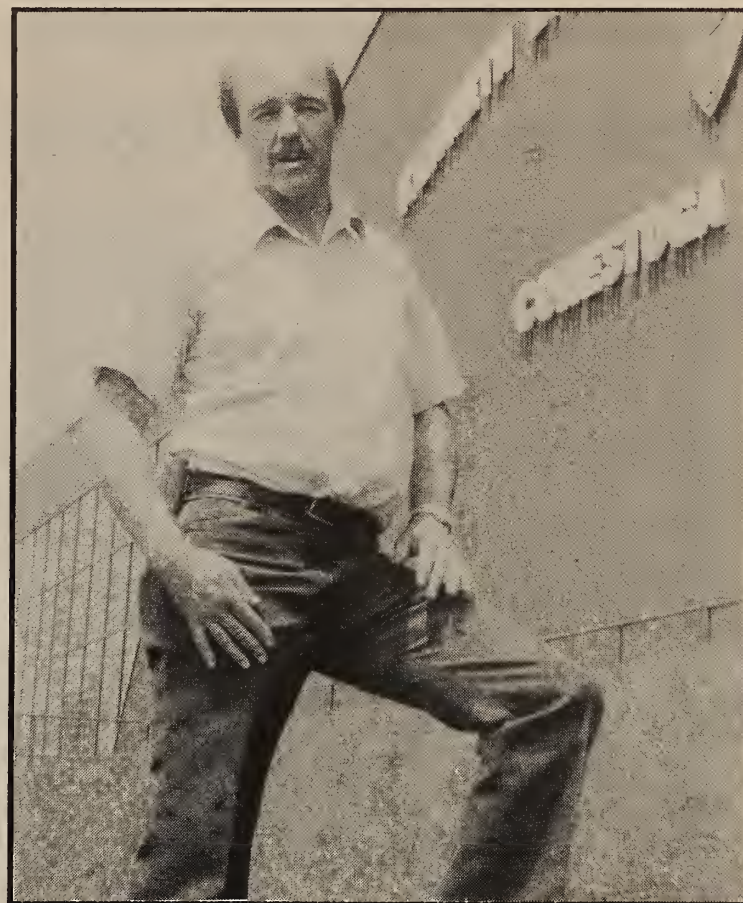
At present, Higgins and his two-man groundskeeping crew must drag 30-metre (100-foot) lengths of garden hose to the end of the Doon campus sports fields to water the trees. He said he needs 10 or 11 of these hoses to reach the furthest trees. These long lengths of hose create low water pressure and require a lot of time to set up, move, and put away, said Higgins.

Grass around the sports complex and the surrounding sports fields can also dry up during the summer without adequate moisture.

Prior to Conestoga's convocation ceremonies on June 19 and 20, Peter Schlei, lead hand at the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre, laid about 76 square metres (850 square feet) of sod near the front of the building, where foot traffic is heavy, and near the retaining walls. Much of the sod was needed to replace grass killed by an infestation of a white grub, Schlei said.

Schlei said that about an hour and a half after he finished laying the sod and had begun watering, a City of Kitchener bylaw enforcement officer arrived to investigate whether or not the watering was permitted. According to the city bylaw, watering of new sod is permitted during installation and for 24 hours afterward. Beyond that, watering is restricted to the days and times set out in the bylaw.

Illegal watering is punishable by a first-time fine of \$103.50. Fines



Peter Schlei, lead hand at the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre, stands on newly-laid sod.

(Photo by Heather Ibbotson)

increase for repeat offenders and may result in court proceedings.

Higgins said he would like to see the college purchase a 4,500-litre (1,000-gallon) tank which could be installed on a college pickup truck. The filled tank could be easily transported, without the need to unravel long lengths of hose.

Lorna Brissett, an information dispatcher with the regional outdoor water use hotline, said a holding tank could be filled with water if it was done according to the day and time regulations. The filled

tank could then be used on non-watering days, because the water would be considered already siphoned from the region's supply.

Barry Milner, manager of physical resources at the Doon campus, is investigating the need for and use of such a tank, but no purchase order has yet been completed.

If the summer of 1992 brings enough rain, the danger of losing some of the new trees on campus may be avoided. However, Higgins said, "We used to wait for drought, now it comes automatically."



Over the top

A high-hoe appears to be perched precariously on a mound of dirt on the Doon campus, but is simply sitting quietly while its operator breaks for lunch. The machine is being used in the construction and excavation of the extension to parking lot 5.

(Photo by Garry Erb)

Revisions to bargaining act may up union membership

By Troy Bridgeman

Part-time college employees will have no choice on union membership or what union they will belong to if a bargaining unit is certified under new legislation, said Colin MacGregor, human resources director for Conestoga College.

The Colleges Collective Bargaining Statute Law Amendment Act, tabled by Ontario Minister of Colleges and Universities Richard Allen on May 27, extends part-time employees in Ontario's 23 colleges the right to organize under a collective bargaining unit.

MacGregor said a lot of part-time employees at the college have other part-time jobs, that combined with their job at Conestoga equal one

full-time job.

While most employees will welcome increased health insurance benefits under a collective agreement, he said, some may resent being obligated to join a union.

MacGregor said part of the new legislation, which establishes the framework for an employers' association, "makes a lot of sense."

He said it allows for more direct input from college presidents and boards of governors in the bargaining process.

MacGregor said he believes the new legislation is the result of pressure placed on Ontario's NDP government by unions which are attempting to gain strength and increase their revenue by increasing union memberships.

Corrections

In the June 24, 1992 issue of Spoke, a story entitled *Office open throughout summer* erroneously reported the days and times during which Conestoga College's health offices are open and staffed by nurses. The correct hours are as follows:

Doon campus: May through August, 8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.

During the months of July and August there will be no nurses available at Guclph, Stratford, Waterloo or Cambridge campuses.

Conestoga's 24th convocation

Diplomas given to 1,998 grads

By K. Stephen Ross

Conestoga diplomas were given to 1,998 graduates at the 24th annual Conestoga College graduation ceremonies June 19 and 20, held at the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre.

As they received their diplomas, graduates attending the convocation ceremonies were presented with a liripipe, a band of red velvet, edged and divided into four sections by gold trim and bearing four white tassels representing the four counties in the college area, symbolizing the attainment of a standard of excellence. These were placed on the left shoulder of each graduate by Betty Martin, college registrar.

Joyce Schantz, whose daughter Kimberly graduated during the June 19 ceremony, was nervous before it started. "I'm shaky right now, but also very proud of her," Schantz said at the ceremony. "She's also getting married four weeks from today so I am nervous about that too."

One convocation exercise was held June 19 at 5 p.m., while two took place June 20, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The ceremonies took place without incident, except for a fire alarm during Saturday afternoon's festivities, when someone pulled a fire

alarm in the upper level of the recreation centre. "Someone saw a few boys running from the area, but we'll probably never find out who did it for sure," said Neath.

On June 19, 315 students received diplomas, 12 from the School of College Access and Preparatory Studies and 303 from the School of Health Sciences. Of these, 154 made the president's honor list, achieving an A or equivalent in all courses of their final year of study. President John Tibbits presented each honor list student with the guild shield appropriate to their particular program.

Guest speaker Al Collins, president and CEO of Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital, told the assembly world changes will affect graduates as they enter the workforce. Collins said there is a sense of fear when it comes to talking about change in health care. Quoting former U.S. President John F. Kennedy, Collins said: "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future."

In speaking to those entering the health care field, Collins said that in the future health care professionals may not be providing care in the traditional setting and additional training will be needed to meet "the changing and growing clinical specialization requirements of our

health care system."

He also said they will need to re-visit and re-define the traditional relationship with the patient.

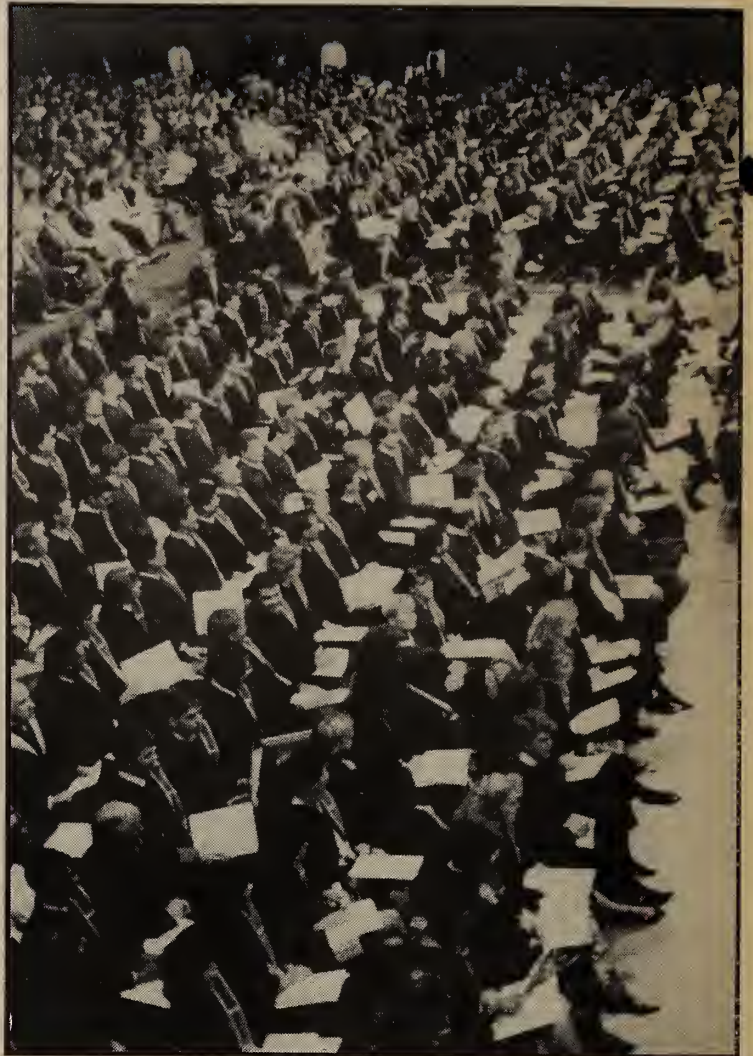
Collins told the students not to lose sight of their ideals and desired future. "Never underestimate the great respect and high esteem in which you are regarded by the general public. You will possess a trust that must never be violated," he said.

The James W. Church Achievement Award was conferred on nursing graduate Fran Brunskill of Cambridge.

This award is given to the student who has demonstrated achievement in learning, concern for the dignity of the individual, and a contribution which is of benefit to society.

Introducing this year's winner, Tibbits said she has been active and dynamic in working with local and provincial autism groups, promoting the organization and enhancing public awareness of autism. As well, she has organized summer programs for autistic children.

The driving force behind her work, said Brunskill, was one of her four sons, who is autistic. He has been her inspiration to perform volunteer work and, in turn, has helped her develop a greater awareness of the needs of less fortunate individuals, she said.



Conestoga graduates assemble in the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre.

(Photo by Ken Cenerelli)

Mastercraft Award presented

By K. Stephen Ross

The Conestoga College Mastercraft Award was one of two major awards presented at the afternoon convocation ceremony at the Doon campus June 20.

The award was presented to Bryan Redlich and Peter Rybski of the mechanical engineering - automated manufacturing program.

The two students built a router fixture, which allows the operator to work with a variety of wood types and sizes.

The Governor General's Academic Award for 1992 was presented to electronics engineering technology graduate Andrew Sixt. The bronze medallion goes each

June to the graduating student in a diploma-level program who achieves the highest overall standing.

Sixt finished with a grade of 96 per cent.

Sixt, originally from Toronto, has begun full-time employment with Zepf Technologies of Waterloo, specializing in electrical design.

The guest speaker was Ian McIntosh, president and chief executive officer of Equitable Life Insurance Company of Canada.

McIntosh addressed 294 applied arts graduates and 239 engineering technology students.

Of these, 22 applied arts and 12 engineering technology students attained the president's honor list.

Graduates urged to work hard but to stop and 'smell the roses'

By K. Stephen Ross

It is necessary to have a strong work ethic to get ahead in the world, said Bill Aitkenhead, vice-president and manager of the Royal Bank of Canada.

Aitkenhead was the guest speaker at the morning convocation on June 20 addressing business graduates.

He said it is necessary to have an education and graduates must be ready to face change to be successful, but said it is also important to be able to "leave the office behind and smell the roses once in a

while."

He urged graduates to be flexible, adaptive and able to take charge rather than be manipulated by change, and to understand and be prepared to become self-reliant. "You will be taking care of you," he said.

Aitkenhead spoke to 312 business graduates and 628 trades and apprenticeship graduates, who received their liripipes and diplomas.

Of these, 164 attained the president's honor list for achieving straight A grades in their final year courses.

One of the college's major awards was also handed out.

The Aubrey Hagar Distinguished Teaching Award was given to Raja Vaidyanathan, a business faculty member, for outstanding contribution and leadership in the teaching-learning process.

A Conestoga College press release called Vaidyanathan an expert in the business field.

He is an author of a textbook, College Business Statistics with Canadian Application, which is used in colleges throughout Canada.

Convocation committee carefully chooses guest speakers

By K. Stephen Ross

Guest speakers are an important part of any ceremony. But the guest speaker at a convocation ceremony gives advice and encouragement to the members of the graduating class as they leave school and head into the workforce.

The speakers at Conestoga College's 24th Convocation ceremonies June 19 and 20 were selected by the convocation committee in co-operation with the president's office and the academic management committee.

This year, the committee decided to go with three ceremonies, said Bob Neath, manager of recreation

services for the college.

"It made more sense to tie up the recreation centre for only two days in June then it would to tie it up for in June and November," said Neath.

Usually, the college has two convocation dates: one in the middle of June and one in the middle of November. Because of finances and time constraints on people, the committee decided to combine the two days into one, said Neath.

The committee looks for speakers who are local, have some connection to the college and have some relevance to the convocation group they are talking to, said Neath, who has been the committee chairper-

son for the past seven years.

The speakers are asked to keep the tone of their speeches general enough for all students graduating.

For example, A.L. Collins, chief executive officer of Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital, who addressed one of this June's graduating groups, was "able to speak very clearly to health science graduates," Neath said, but had a message that pertained to all the grads present.

Names of prospective speakers are given to Neath's committee through contacts within the college. For example, Bill Jeffrey, dean of health science, supplied the committee with Collins' name.

The committee also receives sug-

gestions from the president's office, through his contacts with local businesses.

Neath said that a chain of command is followed when giving names to the committee.

A name comes from the president, is given to the academic management committee, headed by vice-president of student development and human relations John MacKenzie, and is then passed on to the chairperson of the convocation committee.

In some cases, it is an episode of a person's life that makes them an appropriate speaker. Neath said that Roberta Bondar, the Canadian astronaut who was on the last space

shuttle mission, would be a good example of someone who might be a good guest speaker.

Contact is made with prospective speakers about four months ahead of time, Neath said, an especially important time frame if the person is in high demand. Contact dates change when the date of the convocation is moved.

The convocation speaker is not paid for speaking at the ceremony. He or she is given a guild shield from the college as a gift to commemorate the occasion. There was a reception at the Electrical Skills Centre in honor of the guest speaker following Saturday afternoon's ceremony.

Conestoga's 24th convocation

College faculty among those receiving MAs

By Ken Cenerelli

When most people get a full-time job their schooling is over. They don't want to have to deal with the rigors of studying and writing term papers. But for 12 Conestoga College employees, the desire for higher education was too much to resist.

The 12 graduated with MA degrees from Central Michigan University (CMU) in their own convocation ceremony on the Doon campus June 20. The Conestoga group was part of group 24 students from southern Ontario. Other graduates were from Fanshawe College in London, Ont., K-W Hospital and several community service organizations involved in adult education. Graduates received a Master of Arts in Education degree with an emphasis on community college education.

The two-year course, a joint effort by Fanshawe and Conestoga colleges and CMU, was offered at Fanshawe's Woodstock campus. Proposals for the program started in the fall of 1989 and classes started in June of 1990.

For graduate John Sawicki, Conestoga's manager of communications, the experience is one he will not soon forget. "When I was in it I thought, do I really need this much more? But the experiences, challenges and working for two years with an absolutely great bunch of people made it all worth while."

Sawicki said because the course was designed as an extended-degree program to be taught at distant

locations from the university, the program fit into his schedule.

Classes were taught in one of three ways: five days straight, three weekends a month with a couple weeks off in between, and two weekends of three-day weekend sessions with several weeks off afterwards. Classes would run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sawicki said this time off was spent doing the assignments for the next class. He said most classes were 40 hours long and he spent about 40 to 60 hours per course outside of class doing research and preparing for the next class.

Courses ranged from issues affecting community colleges in the future, to advanced educational psychology, and theories about new teaching methods. Each of the 10 courses in the program cost about \$600 including tuition and materials.

Maureen Dubuc, a health sciences teacher at the Doon campus, said the course was specific to her job teaching adult learners.

She also said that the course gave her a few other things as well. "You relive what you were doing as a younger student and you go for it. You develop a lot of empathy for your students when you see they are tired. It also gives you confidence and credibility among your colleagues."

The program was not restricted to those in college education. Joy LeBlanc, the co-ordinator of nursing systems for K-W Hospital, said the fact the course accommodated people not in the colleges was a plus.



MA students celebrate their graduation after convocation ceremonies on June 20.

(Photo courtesy of Eleanor Conlin)

LeBlanc learned of the program from nursing friends at Conestoga and after looking at the course content, she discovered that "the two systems, hospitals and colleges, are both government run. They have a lot of the same problems and concerns. The courses were directly related to colleges but were applicable to the situations in the hospital."

The 24 students were allowed to graduate with the CMU graduating class in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan on May 2, although they would not

officially be done until May 8.

The university also arranges a local graduation for those who cannot make it to Mt. Pleasant. The graduation was held at Conestoga because the majority of the students were from the K-W area. Nineteen of the 24 students attended the Conestoga graduation.

The graduation ceremonies were attended by Conestoga President John Tibbits, Fanshawe President Barry Moore and CMU Provost Richard Davenport, who handed out the diplomas. About 75 guests

attended the ceremonies.

The graduates included Eleanor Conlin, Maureen Dubuc, Stephanie Futher, Elizabeth McNair, Jean Morris, Yuki Novotny and Marlene Zister from the School of Health Sciences; John Innanen from the School of Business; Rod Kosmick from the School of Engineering Technology; Norm Socha from the School of Trades and Apprenticeship; Carol Trotter from the School of College Access and Preparatory Studies; and John Sawicki.

Job prospects may be brightening for some graduates

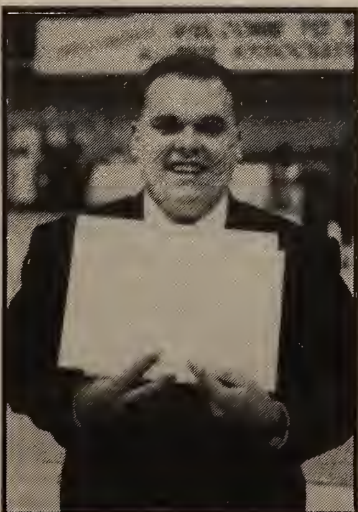
By Ken Cenerelli

Many of the graduates at Conestoga College's 24th Convocation on June 20 had mixed feelings about venturing out into the working world. Most will have plenty of time on their hands with the few jobs to be had being taken by the more experienced unemployed, while a select few have already started to build a future for themselves.

Spoke interviewed eight graduates from various programs. Three of the respondents were working in related fields full time, three were working part time in related fields and two others were working in non-related jobs.

Conestoga graduated 1,046 students in 1991. The Graduate Placement Report for that year indicates 791 people, out of 908, found employment. Related work made up the majority of the employed figure with 513 people finding full-time work, 133 part-time work and 145 working in non-related jobs.

Tony Atkins, a law and security administration (LASA) graduate and one of three respondents working in a part-time related job, isn't worried about finding a full-time job. Atkins graduated with the intentions of becoming a police officer.



Tony Atkins

"I think I'll get a job in policing. I don't think I'm not going to. It's just a matter of when," said Atkins. He currently works as a guard for Brinks Canada Limited.

He said many police forces currently have hiring freezes on and most are looking for women and visible minorities. But he added that two of his classmates got hired on area police forces and both were white males.

Things look a little brighter for Lori Marquis, a construction engineering graduate. She recently beat



Sarah Hopper, left, and Lisa Foster

out 40 applicants for a full-time job at Softplan Systems in Waterloo. Marquis will work on computer-assisted drafting machines. She describes her success as "lucky. I just applied and got the job." Only three grads out of 22 in construction engineering have full-time jobs related to their course of study said Marquis.

Sarah Hopper, a graphic design and advertising graduate, said she had 12 interviews and still has not found employment. She said she is looking for full-time work but if she cannot find it, she will head to Australia for a month of travel.

One program feeling a resurgence in the job market is early childhood education (ECE).

Lisa Foster, an ECE grad, said many of her classmates have jobs and there is a need for ECE workers. The 1991 Graduate Placement Report indicated ECE had more than half of their grads working in the field. Foster will be working at the Lions Head Co-op Nursery School and Child Care Centre in Lions Head, Ont.

Another program affected by a hiring freeze is nursing. Many hospitals are closing beds and there are

not many jobs to be found, said Anita Arnold, past Doon Student Association vice-president and a nursing grad. She is currently working part time at Freeport Hospital but her job there is over at the end of the summer.

"I'm not optimistic in this area. I've looked up north and out in British Columbia but the only thing I can find is part time. I'm looking into jobs in the United States right now," she said.

No convocation in November

The traditional fall convocation at Conestoga College will be eliminated, starting this year.

The new arrangement was a result of financial considerations (tying up the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre for one weekend instead of two) and personal considerations (students working and getting volunteers to donate their time), said Bob Neath, manager of recreation services.

This year, all convocation ceremonies were held on two days, June 19 and 20, instead of one in June and one in November.

Work terms benefit BRT students

By Garry Erb

Conestoga's broadcasting program offers features for students not available at other colleges, the program's co-ordinator said.

The three-year program exposes students to radio and television for the first two years and the third year is a specialization year, said Paul Scott, co-ordinator of the broadcasting-radio and television program.

This is unlike broadcasting programs at other colleges which force students to choose either radio or television at the beginning.

Scott said the program also changed its internship arrangement this year so that students are now sent on placements in third year rather than second, as students are more likely to spend their work terms at stations they are interested in.

In 1991, the broadcasting program's internship involved sending second-year students into a professional broadcasting environment every second week for the year.

"The program began to develop some weaknesses," Scott said.

Time spent in the workplace was limited to a half day.

Students were required to rotate among seven stations, CFCA FM, AM 109, 570 CHYM and CKGL in Kitchener, AM 96 in Cambridge and CKLA and CJOY in Guelph.

The biggest difficulty, Scott said,

was that some professionals had little interest in the students and "conversely, some of the students had absolutely no interest in the work station they had been assigned to for that day."

Last summer, the college examined the whole internship program and decided it would be in the program's best interest to move the internship to the third year of the program.

In the first semester of the 1991-92 school year, a survey of the radio and television students was conducted asking them to indicate their first preference for a work placement.

"Out of the 20 students that were in third year, we successfully placed 19 students in stations of their choice doing what they wanted to do," said Scott.

He said one student wished to find her own placement, but was unsuccessful and the college had to make arrangements for her.

He added that placement is something the broadcasting program works hard at.

"This past year was hard because it was a brand new program. We were making calls to communities outside of the college area and some weren't all that familiar with the college as it turns out," Scott said.

He said it is rewarding to receive co-operation from a station like CITY-TV in Toronto, where Mike Coughlan, a third-year student, was

placed.

Another third-year student, Kelly Mack, was placed at Y95 in Hamilton.

Scott said he hopes some of these placements will result in jobs, which happened in two cases.

Mack was hired at Y95 on a part-time basis and Denise McKeever was hired at the CTV network on the Canada AM show.

Not all graduates of the program will find work in the broadcasting field because of current economic problems, Scott said.

"A lot of our students have jobs not related to broadcasting. They in fact, have kept the jobs they had throughout (the program) to help them get through.

Broadcasting, like many other industries, is going through major restructuring as it tries to deal with the recession," Scott said.

Enrolment in the broadcasting program is limited to 30 students.

"Last year we had 243 applications and this year we had 400 applications, of which we interviewed 169 and only 30 got in," Scott said.

The criteria for program entrance is writing an essay, taking a grammar test, good marks from high school and an interview.

The registrar's office then combines all the information and ranks applicants.

The internship program should show students they must start at the bottom and work their way up the ladder of success, said Scott.



Catch of the day

Nikki Cheyne, 8, a Grade 2 student at Westvale public school, reels in her line at the Doon campus lake. She was one of approximately 40 children who fished there June 16.

(Photo by Ken Central)

Nursing students snap up books in library give-away

By Heather Ibbotson

Conestoga College nursing and nursing assistant students were able to leave the Doon campus learning resource centre with armfuls of free books from June 19 to 26.

About 300 health science textbooks and magazines were placed

on several tables in the learning resource centre for students to browse through and take home.

The books were removed from the Doon and Guelph campuses because they were outdated or had been replaced by more current editions, said reference technician Shari Gross.

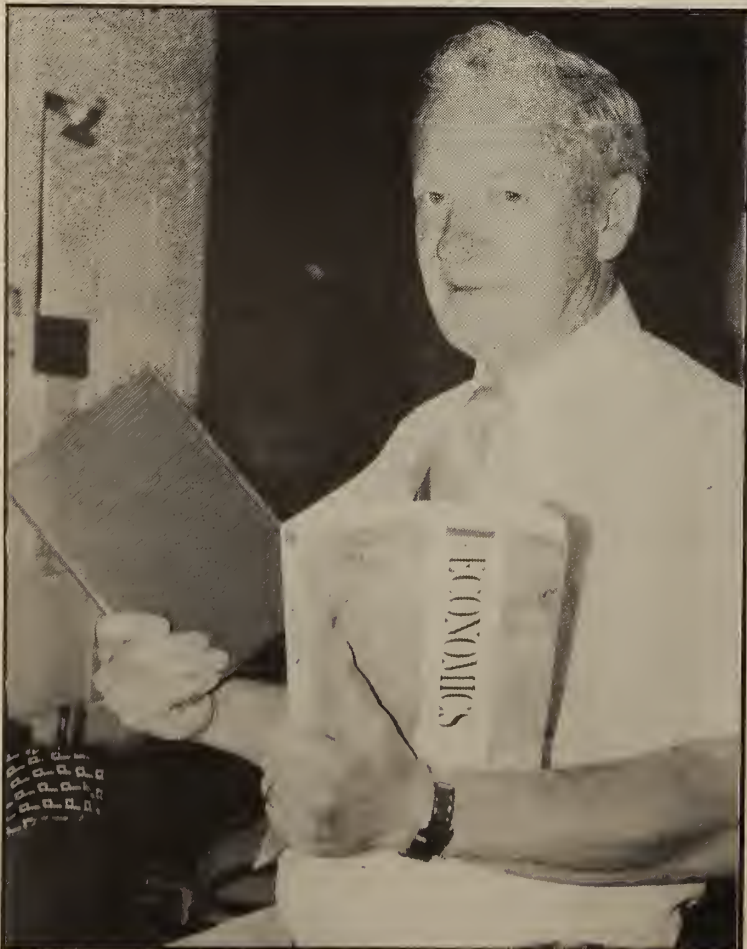
The selection of books and magazines was first offered free to area nursing homes and agencies, which provide the clinical experience portion for students in the college's health science curriculum. Representatives, who were telephoned and told of the offer by staff in the learning resource centre, came to

Doon campus during the first two weeks of the give-away in mid-June.

Leftovers were then offered free to nursing and registered nursing assistant students at the college. Notices were placed on bulletin boards in the nursing wing to inform the students.

Of the approximately 300 books initially offered, only about 20 remain, said Gross. Remainders will be included in the annual September book give-away held by the learning resource centre.

"We had an excellent response. The books were pretty well cleared out in one day," she said.



Bob Gilberts, head of Doon campus security, displays items from the lost and found.

(Photo by Heather Ibbotson)

Lost and found packed full of treasures

By Heather Ibbotson

Security staff at Conestoga's Doon campus have about four lockers stacked with items which have been lost or abandoned in the last year and which remain unclaimed by their owners.

As well, the security office contains numerous cardboard boxes and bags loaded with lost items.

Bob Gilberts, head of security at the Doon campus, said that during the year students leave behind shoes, gloves, glasses, coats, hats, rings, watches, textbooks, notebooks and purses.

"Sometimes people are absent-minded and wander away from where they are without taking their things," Gilberts said.

Most jewelry which is still unclaimed — from brooches, rings and earrings to a silver-colored crucifix — is costume jewelry. Gilberts said that valuable jewelry is often quickly claimed by its owner.

College security guard Janet Smith said when security finds something that looks valuable, "we usually put a note up outside the office."

If lost items carry any identification, such as names written in text-

books, security staff place a written notice on the wall outside their office, so the person can claim the items.

Purses currently in the security staff's possession were either found by staff or brought into the security office by students or college staff. If there is identification inside the purse, the owner is contacted at home.

Much of the material is collected during the annual locker cleanup in June, when most students have left for the summer. Throughout the year, lockers whose rental is unpaid or expired are opened and items inside are removed.

Each fall, the security office holds a one-day sale of items unclaimed for more than three months. Gilberts said security staff try to put fair prices on items, but any price is negotiable.

Sale money is donated to student services. It is placed in the Student Assistance Fund — a non-advertised fund that provides emergency student loans of up to \$25. Gilberts said the annual sale brings in about \$100.

Unsold items remain in the lost and found "from years ago," said college security guard Jim Brady.

Textbooks not sold are sometimes

donated to a related college department, Brady said.

Occasionally, unusual items are found by security staff or brought by others to the security office. Smith said she recalls finding hubcaps inside the Doon campus shipping and receiving dock, as well as stacks of erotic magazines — the type which can be purchased in stores — inside student lockers.

Smith said that a man's 10-speed bicycle was recently found on the grounds between the Doon powerhouse and a storage building.

Rotten food is one of the regular discoveries made when cleaning unpaid or abandoned lockers, both Gilberts and Smith said.

Gilberts said he can't understand why students don't come to the security office to look for lost textbooks, especially those which cost \$30 to \$50 apiece. He said students should write their names in all textbooks and notebooks to make owner identification easier.

"Students should be checking here for lost items," Gilberts said.

Though students are given information about the campus lost and found office during orientation and in their school regulations handbook, Gilberts said he doesn't think all are aware of the service.

Literacy program opens up world of words

By Allana Gillam-Wright
Special to Spoke

Shirley Delroy is a woman in her middle fifties. She is also a student of a literacy program.

"I was laid off from my factory job last May," Delroy said. "I walked into the unemployment office to find work, but I couldn't fill out an application. I could hardly read it. I started to cry. I said I need help. They sent me to Conestoga College for the literacy program."

Illiteracy, the inability to read or write, is a handicap which affects 28 per cent of the Canadian population.

But unlike many handicaps, illiteracy can be beaten through literacy programs.

The Cambridge campus of Conestoga has, for the past two years, offered an Ontario basic skills literacy program, funded by the Waterloo County board of education's literacy branch.

Helen Watt, program co-ordinator, said the program has been highly successful. The program currently has an enrolment of 40 students.

Delroy is one of the success stories.



Students, teachers, and family members of the Cambridge campus Ontario basic skills literacy program gather to honor volunteers. Breanne Gamble, back left, Elsie Finney, Tom Erison, Karen White, Dorothy Beaudry, Mary Dokis, Gordon Gamble. Front: Cecelia O'Quinn, Sue Wayne.

(Photo by Allana Gillam-Wright, Special to Spoke)

Although she still works one on one with a teacher or volunteer twice a week, Delroy has enrolled in the Ontario basic skills upgrading program, which helps students without Grade 12 education enter college.

Watt is assisted by Janice Konrad, associate faculty instructor, and four volunteer tutors.

The program caters to people with special needs as well as those who have never had the opportunity to learn to read and write.

The program, which runs from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday to Thursday, provides each student with one and a half to two hours of individual instruction with either a teacher or a volunteer.

"The program is learner based, the learner sets the goals," said Watt.

"Much more is involved than just teaching a student to read or write. The program breaks down barriers and instills self confidence in the students," Konrad said.

Mary Dokis was sent to the program through workers' compensation after injuring her back at work.

"I could not read or write before coming here. I never had a chance to go to school when I was young," Dokis said.

"Workers' compensation sent me to Conestoga because I couldn't fill out an application form. I can fill one out now," she said.

Physically disabled adults and many learning disabled also take part in the program.

Karen White, a volunteer who has worked with disabled students for five months, said people who are physically and learning disabled slipped through the cracks of the

education system because of their disabilities.

"They are so eager to learn. I can only compare them to sponges, thirsting for knowledge," White said.

Sue Wayne, who has epilepsy, is confined to a wheelchair and lives in a nursing home. She comes to the Cambridge campus once a week to receive help with reading and to study computers.

"I have always wanted to learn how to use a computer," said Wayne. "I am now learning Word-Perfect and I love it."

Tom Erison is a volunteer who enjoys working with the disabled.

Erison explained that years ago, the thought was, that if you were in a wheelchair and physically handicapped, you were considered to be mentally handicapped, which in many cases was not true at all.

"We are now finding out that these people are highly motivated individuals who are eager to learn," said Erison.

On June 24, students and teachers held a tea to honor the volunteers for their time.

Each volunteer was presented with a Conestoga College T-shirt.

DSA prepares roster of events for September orientation

By Sandra Schuett

The Doon Student Association (DSA) hopes to make this year's orientation a "blow out."

Ideas being considered include hot-air balloon rides and a pancake welcome-back breakfast. The DSA would like to have college administration act as guest servers for the

event, DSA activities co-ordinator Becky Westman said.

Westman has begun organizing an event schedule, but all proposals are tentative, pending approval from the DSA executive.

Plans for the fall include an outdoor movie, to be projected on a large screen on the side of the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre,

Conestoga's annual car rally and a lunch-hour casino in the cafeteria.

The proposed theme of this year's orientation T-shirts is Conestoga's 25th anniversary, picturing Cliff the Condor blowing out candles on a birthday cake with the caption: "Doon it right for 25 years."

The DSA is preparing orientation kits which will go on sale this fall.

The price has not been decided, but Westman said they will cost about \$15. The 1992 kits will be packaged in 250 cloth laundry sacks purchased from the University of Waterloo.

Westman said the kits will include coupons from places such as Dairy Queen and Maue Golf Centre in Kitchener, as well as samples of

personal-size items donated by various companies.

In July, all students starting in September will receive information and order forms for the kits by mail. Kits will be distributed to purchasers during orientation week.

Westman said any unsold kits may be disassembled and used as prizes for activities.

Alternative student paper published

By Cara-Mae Hackett

Connoisseur, a student-run newspaper and the brainchild of second-year journalism student Craig Stewart, had its first issue distributed June 30.

The idea was discussed for a few semesters before it came about. Stewart said Connoisseur is meant "to show the fun side of journalism."

"The journalism department takes itself far too seriously," Stewart said. "We're just trying to show people there's another way to do it (get published) and that you don't have to be so serious all the time."

Stewart does not plan on charging for Connoisseur. He said he hopes the contributors will be willing to support the paper financially.

The 100 copies of Connoisseur's first issue were published at Kwik-Kopy Printer in Kitchener. The cost, covered mostly by Stewart

and a few of the other six Connoisseur contributors, was \$28. It was six pages in length, printed on one side of letter-size pieces of paper, bound with staples.

Stewart said the size of the monthly newspaper will depend on the number and length of submitted material. He is willing to take any submissions, be they hard-hitting news stories, advice columns, mock news stories, or anything bizarre, unique and interesting.

"One of the misconceptions about Connoisseur was that it was only for journalism," Stewart said.

He encourages everyone to submit articles, especially students in nursing and technology, who are not often featured in Spoke. "We'll take them hand-written, type-written or in hieroglyphics," he said.

Most of the submissions are from journalism-print students who appear "rebellious," Stewart said the main contributors are "the outspo-

ken students who have something to say, and will say it."

Stewart said, "Some (students) won't contribute stories to Connoisseur because they are afraid of it affecting their academic standing (in a negative manner)."

Connoisseur is "very light" on pictures at present and Stewart said he would like to see more in the future.

Most of the picture content of Connoisseur is jam-packed with cartoons drawn by second-year journalism student Ken Gallagher.

Anyone with questions, concerns, or comments about Connoisseur is urged to contact any of its current writers.

"We're not out to compete with Spoke," Stewart said. He said it was hard to draw a comparison between the two newspapers. "It's like comparing the New York Times (Spoke) and People magazine (Connoisseur)."

New DSA financial co-ordinator settles in

By Troy Bridgeman

The Doon Student Association (DSA) has a new financial co-ordinator.

Irene Darosa, of Kitchener, has replaced Victor Deane, who took over the position temporarily after the previous business manager, Phil Olinski, left Feb. 19, 1992, when his contract was not renewed.

Darosa has negotiated a one-year contract with the DSA and will be assuming responsibility for all the bookkeeping and banking duties required by the association.

She said she became aware of the position from a newspaper ad.

Darosa had been performing similar full-time duties at the head office of Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Inc.

She said that contrary to what people might think, it (Oktoberfest) is "an all-year operation," but she was "looking for a change" and decided to apply for the position at the college.

Her husband, Fred, works as a truck driver and warehouse worker for Beaver Lumber in Kitchener.

They are the parents of 11-year-old, Freddy Jr.



Conestoga clippings

Library technician Cathy Potvin browses through some of the historical college material temporarily being housed in Doon's learning resource centre.

(Photo by Heather Ibbotson)

ENTERTAINMENT



Michael Keaton portrays Batman in Batman Returns.

(Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures)

Batman returns Special effects and costumes poor in sequel

By Neil Wells

Batman has returned, but the question is, why did he bother?

Two new villains are introduced, more of Batman's idiosyncrasies are revealed, more people die and more breath-taking special-effects are attempted and fail.

The long-awaited sequel to the movie Batman, the block-buster release of three years ago, has just been released.

The problem is, the movie has some mighty big shoes to fill, and in the end it does not even come close.

Problems are evident in almost every aspect of this movie. They began even before production started when the three stars of the movie — Michael Keaton, who returns as Batman; Danny Devito, who portrays the rotund villain, The Penguin; and Michelle Pfeiffer, as Catwoman — all demanded exorbitant salaries. After months of salary negotiation, production was under way, but again not without

Movie review

complications.

The movie's budget grew when a \$10-million insulated sound stage was constructed for scenes with live penguins.

With the movie completed, six months after its original release date of Christmas '91, it opened without the fanfare its predecessor enjoyed.

Production problems are evident, beginning with a plot that seems to drift. Just when the viewer is beginning to understand the movie, another character and another plot-twist are introduced. The result is many vaguely under-developed characters portrayed in a weak story line.

Individually, Keaton's characters are delved into with greater detail in this movie, unmasking a more personal side of the caped crusader, but also revealing his apparent schizophrenia.

Devito, as The Penguin, is an

overindulgence of makeup and mannerism. He looks and sounds uncomfortable with his dialogue and costume.

Pfeiffer's portrayal of Catwoman is more frightening than entertaining. After falling (to her death?) Pfeiffer is transformed from mild mannered secretary into a Bruce Lee meets the Marquis de Sade type character.

She seems have a hard time deciding if she wants to kill Batman or make love with him.

The only thing worse than the acting and the plot in this movie is the special effects.

People dressed up as penguins, heads that fly off mannequins one second after being struck and Devito's padding in his costume, which looks like a couple of pillows, are just a few of the really bad effects that are evident.

Batman Returns is the second and hopefully last movie about this gothic character.

Where is the boy wonder when you need him?

Conestoga College journalism student tries hand at busking

By Neil Wells

With the summer ahead of him, Roberto (Ziggy) Machado thought he would take some time off school and try his hand at busking — the act of performing in public for donations.

So now Machado, 22, a third-semester journalism student at Conestoga College only goes to school part time. He is following the advice of his doctor, who recommended he take a break from school following a bout with the Epstein-

Barr virus. The disease, which is similar to mononucleosis leaves people feeling tired and unable to perform strenuous day-to-day tasks.

Machado and several friends have opened their cases on King Street in Kitchener after city council decided to allow street performers.

Most of the time, Machado said the musicians he plays with, jam to blues, jazz or rock riffs that are usually unrehearsed.

Council regulated that before individuals can be buskers, they must

first register their act to ensure it is safe for themselves and for spectators.

Busking, the act of performing in public, for donations, has been around for centuries, but it has only been in vogue in Kitchener for a couple months.

Buskers, with acts as diverse as juggling, fire breathing, singing and playing instruments, can be seen in both Kitchener and Waterloo, performing for gratuities that are sometimes their only source of income.

"Busking is the difference between eating lunch and not," Machado said.

Buskers sometimes travel from city to city, trying to eke out a wage that provides them a meagre diet and occasionally a roof over their heads in a local hostel.

Machado, who has no source of income, says busking earns him and his friends upwards of \$40 as a group, for a four-hour performance.

In addition to busking, Machado's band Social Fish performs at local clubs in Kitchener-Waterloo.

He said he is planning to return to school full-time in September unless his band starts making some "good money."

If he does decide to go back to school, Machado said he might want to go to university for a degree in political science. Right now Machado said he will continue to busk as long as it earns him money. If you like a busker's performance, you can show your appreciation by giving him or her money, usually in an instrument case open in front of the performer.

Video reviews

The Fisher King provides a serious lesson in life

By Sandra Schuett

If you want to both laugh and cry all in the span of two hours, then The Fisher King is a movie sure to satisfy.

The newly released home video version of the 1991 film is billed as a comedy, but reflects more of an adventure-drama tone.

The Fisher King is a film about two men who use a related tragedy to help one another in their quests.

Robin Williams plays the role of Perry, an insane, homeless scholar traumatized by his wife's death. Jeff Bridges co-stars as Jack, a smart-mouthed disc jockey, who, in an unlikely twist of fate, becomes caught up in Perry's wacky world of fear and illusion.

Both men are superb in their respective roles. Once again, Williams shows that he is more than a comedian by putting in a touching

and witty performance. Similarly, Bridges' boy-inside-the-man struggle for peace of mind is executed beautifully.

Acting talent abounds in this film. The two leads receive support from Amanda Plummer, who brings honesty and fragility to her role as the clumsy, repressed Lydia, the love of Perry's life.

The film runs the gamut of emotions from anger and despair to joy and excitement, without losing its appeal.

It might have been due to quality acting, but never has a movie plot been more intricate and yet believable.

The ironic circumstances that lead Jack and Perry to meet become reasons why their friendship must develop and strengthen.

Although the movie can not be considered an epic, it has all the elements of a winner.

Black Robe lives up to reputation

By Heather Ibbotson

Black Robe, a 1991 film recently released for home video, is an epic portrayal of life and death in 17th century Canada.

The story revolves around the journey of a Jesuit priest named Father Laforgue, played by Lothaire Bluteau, who embarks from New France (Quebec) on a 2,400-kilometre (1,500-mile) trek to the mission of the Hurons in 1634.

He and his Jesuit colleagues are referred to as Black Robes by natives they encounter because of the Jesuits' flowing, black clerical robes.

Accompanying him are a young Frenchman named Daniel, played by Aden Young, and about eight Algonquin guides.

The group travels by canoe in late fall and early winter, enduring great hardship, and encountering attack and torture at the hands of the Ir-

quois Indians during the journey.

The film pulls no punches in its representation of the harshness and privation of the untamed wilderness of early Canada.

Native peoples and their aboriginal lifestyles are well represented, from the imposing, palisaded villages of the Iroquois nation to the elaborate costuming of the Algonquin, Montagnais, Iroquois and Huron peoples who they meet on the voyage.

Father Laforgue struggles not only to survive but also to keep his faith in the face of loneliness, temptation and the foreign beliefs of the natives he so desperately wants to convert to Christianity.

His companion, Daniel, becomes involved with a young Algonquin woman named Annuka, played by Sandrine Holt, and Father Laforgue must wrestle with his own similar desires.

The acting is believable, and the viewer becomes enamored of all of

the main characters, regardless of their strengths or weaknesses.

The film is a thoughtful and poignant view of the fruitless attempt by the earliest missionaries to bring Christianity to Canada's native peoples as well as the European's unwitting guilt in introducing western diseases such as smallpox and measles, which virtually wiped out many of the peoples they sought to "save."

Sweeping panoramas of pristine wilderness enhance the tragic beauty of the film and serve as a reminder of what Canada was like before the arrival of the Europeans.

Black Robe, named as one of the top films of 1991 by the Los Angeles Times, Time Magazine and The Globe and Mail, is more than beautiful scenery and historical interpretation.

It is the type of film which stays with your heart and mind for both its wistful sadness and its absorbing passion.